

SUDHA WR TOP
RD-6



People's Report Of Chhattisgarh

Background Note

Government Of Chhattisgarh

Community Health Cell**Library and Information Centre**

367, " Srinivasa Nilaya "

Jakkasandra 1st Main,

1st Block, Koramangala,

BANGALORE - 560 034.

Phone : 5531518 / 5525372

e-mail:sochara@vsnl.com

People's Report Of Chhattisgarh

Background Note



People's Report Of
Chhattisgarh



RB S-1

07584

THE GAON LA CHALAV ABHIYAN AND THE JAN RAPATS OF CHHATTISGARH

The new state of Chhattisgarh was formed out of a conviction that the area and its people need a different focus and a different set up to govern and administer themselves. It was with this in mind that a need was felt to look at the future development of the state with a different perspective. A new state requires a re-assessment of the needs and aspirations of the people, its regions, the state of people, and an understanding of where we are going and where it is that we want to go. In short a vision for the future.

On the 1st of November, 2001 Chhattisgarh completed one year of Statehood. To mark the occasion, villages in Chhattisgarh, numbering over eighteen thousand, have embarked on a Campaign to prepare their own *Jan Rapats* (People's Reports). These reports are to be made in a state wide peoples campaign "*Gaon la Chalav*", a call of going back to our villages. People's Reports would not only document the human development status of each village – and, in that sense would serve as a Human Development Report for each village– but would also use the

inventory of resident natural, physical and human resources leading to community action in development. The preparation of People's Reports would be an elaborate exercise in participatory study, analysis and documentation. In one sense, it marries the concepts of people's planning and human development reports.

It is envisaged that the Campaign of *Gaon la Chalav* – for the preparation of People's Reports for each village in the State – would be spread over the next nine months. The village level People's Reports would then be amalgamated to form District and State level Jan Rapats. The aggregated State Report would serve as the State Human Development Report or the *Chhattisgarh ki Jan Rapat*. Another area of exploration is the potential of these reports as documents that would lead to community action in development and as inputs into district planning.

Human Development Reports as prepared at present are the outcome of secondary data bases enmeshed with sample primary surveys or case studies. The traditional HDRs are constrained by their limited scope in

terms of the aggregate indices they project. Since, the HDRs are used for planning or decision making purposes at the higher echelons of governance, the lack of micro vision make them out to be of little use to the people themselves. People's Reports in Chhattisgarh are intended to address these broad concerns, reflecting both the status as well as the local vision for developing the State's villages. The *Chhattisgarh ki Jan Rapat* or the People's Report for Chhattisgarh is based on the conviction that every citizen of this state has the right to articulate his or her self and it is this articulation that can form the best resource to information, planning and enhancement of a democratic civil society.

The preparation of People's Reports would bring together the local knowledge domain of the members of the Gram Sabhas, utilising all available resident expertise. Teams of villagers, a mixture of young and old, men and women and representatives from all communities will facilitate the writing of the jan rapats in their villages. The members of these teams will participate in cluster level seminars of the village

jan rapats where they will deliberate on the exercise, get an orientation to the jan rapats and how and in what manner should they be prepared to ensure that they document people and people's voices, they represent all groups and they are a report of people on their village, on themselves, their strengths and capabilities, their vision, their potential, and not merely a document of problems, demands and complaints.

It is proposed that the institutional arrangement for the preparation of the *Rapat* would be at the village level with the *Rajiv Gyanodaya Kendras* which would form the hub for the activities relevant to the preparation of Reports. These *Kendras* which are essentially meant to be village libraries and reading rooms for youth; and, are managed by committees formed by the Gram Sabhas and the Gram Panchayats; would also serve as the forum for dissemination, exchange and critiquing of information and knowledge particularly relevant to the development and life in villages.

Grassroots Support Organisations would be identified for the purpose

of assisting the Gram Sabhas and Gram Panchayats for the survey, compilation and analysis of information for giving it the shape of village level People's Reports. At the higher tiers again, suitably competent Non Government Organizations would be involved to coordinate the activities at the block and district levels.

In order to make this entire exercise of such a magnitude become meaningful for the future as well, the State Government of Chhattisgarh has decided to create a Citizen and Community database based on the information that would be generated by the People's Report campaign. The proposed data base would facilitate the Decision Support System and provision of Citizen Services under our eGovernance project called the Chhattisgarh Online information for Citizen Empowerment (CHOiCE). The CHOiCE project of eGovernance is being implemented by Chhattisgarh infotech Promotion Society (CHiPS), which is the State Government's agency for all IT related activities in Chhattisgarh. Chhattisgarh infotech Promotion Society (CHiPS) would be the

designated nodal agency for the implementation of the campaign relating to the preparation of the Report. CHiPS would ensure effective coordination in the preparation of People's Report (HDR) and the utility of the information harnessed therein for the implementation of CHOiCE.

THE PROCESS

The proposed programme for the *Gaon la Chalav* campaign has been planned in four phases. Currently basic concept design, pilot exercises to develop a methodology and report structure for the *Jan Rapats* and the database, planning of time and activities is on. During this period a series of consultations and discussions have been undertaken with groups of sarpanch, janpad panchayat members, groups in villages, with NGOs, with people from inside and outside the State, NGOs, and internal workshops, and government officials to enrich the idea of the Jan Rapat. The State Government is also in the process of identifying NGOs who could carry out pilots in villages for the purpose.

The formal start up of the *Jan Rapat* process will be the two-day Jan Rapat Seminar where organisations within and outside Chhattisgarh, academicians across the country, and members of the government, will attend the workshop to discuss the Jan Rapat exercise and what could be included in the same.

In the last four months, exercises towards making jan rapats have been carried out in about a dozen villages, and discussions held with various stakeholders. The outcome from these discussions and internal workshops have formed recommendations for a methodology that could be adopted for the jan rapats and a broad outline for them. These will be discussed in detail with stakeholders, experts, government officials in the seminar.

The Chief Minister will formally launch the jan rapat process by inaugurating this seminar which is scheduled for the 1st and 2nd of March, 2002. The main objectives of the seminar would be:

- To share the purpose and the rationale of the Jan Rapats
- To learn from past

experiences and exercises similar in nature

- To define the concept of Human Development in the context of communities.
- To define the roles of different stakeholders including NGOs, government, PRI representatives, volunteers in the entire process.
- To identify ways and means of ensuring maximum participation in the making of Jan Rapats and provide pointers and insights for the *Gaon la Chalav* campaign to ensure participation of all, and design a meaningful exercise.
- Along with the development of village *Jan Rapats*, as mentioned earlier, a resource database will also be developed of every village. The Seminar will also deliberate on the information requirements for the development of the state MIS to be drawn from this exercise.
- Sharing/ developing a field work strategy with regard to the following:

- People are able to write a report on themselves, their village, their strengths, their potential, their village, their institutions.
- Making a Situational analysis of human development in the village
- Formulating Participatory Village level development plans
- Information to make a database for the State MIS (this information will include data drawn from the above points and the human/natural/ physical resource inventory)

Based on the outcomes from the workshops, general directions for the methodology and content of the jan rapat would be designed. The pilot phase will start once the workshop feedback has been worked out.

The State government is in the process of identifying experienced non-government organisations to undertake pilot jan rapats in two

villages in every district of Chhattisgarh. Following the Seminar, discussions will be held with the NGOs before they undertake the pilots. The feedback and inputs from the seminar, feedback from exercises conducted prior to the seminar, and the formats developed for the jan rapats will be disseminated to the NGOs.

Over a period of fifteen days, the pilots will be undertaken across the state. The purpose of the pilots will be to finalise the methodology for the jan rapats, assess what time will be required to complete jan rapats in the villages, since villagers will be doing the exercises as well as writing their reports, what kind of orientation and exposure should the village facilitators be given to ensure that jan rapats are made, how should the formats be designed and what tools and techniques should be adopted to make the reports, ensure that all people and groups are represented in the report. It is also important that the jan rapats capture the kind of information and data needed to make the reports a true reflection of people and also ensure that a meaningful and adequate state level jan rapat can be made based on them.

The selection of the thirty two villages for pilot reports would be done in consultation with district administration and NGOs selected, and will ensure that they represent the character of the districts they represent.

The feedback from the pilots shall be deliberated in a four day workshop at the end of March early April and a basic methodology, and framework for the jan rapats would be finalised.

Following the freezing of the methodology and formats, a training module shall be developed for training preraks who shall then orient and train village level jan rapats teams. Non government organisations (Sahbhagi Swaichhik Sansthayen) with requisite experience in participatory research and appraisal techniques would be identified and they shall undertake training of preraks. These NGOs will themselves undergo exposure to the jan rapat methodology under the trainings module developed, and help from leading training agencies could be taken for this purpose.

WRITING THE JAN RAPATS

Districts shall identify facilitators or preraks from every block, ensuring that there are three to four, four member prerak teams in every block. Once the preraks are trained and oriented by NGOs along the lines of the training modules developed, they will undertake training and orientation exercises of village teams. Preraks or facilitators shall be oriented in community based socio-economic analysis and appraisal, group formation, group dynamics, communication, leadership in community action etc. The facilitators will then go to the villages under the "*gaon la chalav*" campaign and help village communities to prepare the jan rapats.

From every village, the gram sabha shall a group of eight to ten people (Gyan Uday Samooh) to form group of facilitators who shall help in making the jan rapats in the village. The selection of the ten member team will be made in a manner that ensures that every community, women, elders, and village youth are represented in it. Criteria will be developed for the composition of this team by the state government and village gram sabhas

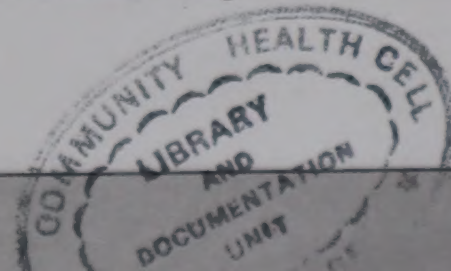
shall select the teams along the lines of the criteria. From the group of eight to ten persons, two persons shall be selected for an intensive five to seven days training from preraks. For prerak training, villages will be divided into cluster of eight villages each. A team of four preraks will undertake training of two clusters together over a period of five to seven days, which will include a pilot field phase also. Following this training, the entire village teams will undergo a half day orientation sessions with two preraks. The jan rapat phase shall begin in villages immediately after this training phase.

To ensure that an environment is built up for the jan rapats and all communities and people come to know about it, a ten to fifteen day mobilisation exercise will be carried out in every block, with effective communication strategy. This is critical to make people understand and believe in the jan rapats and remove misgivings, doubts and suspicion of the process, so that people do participate in the process.

The jan rapat would take fifteen to twenty five days in every village. There are two distinct components of

RB S-1

07584



the jan rapats – the data base and the report itself. The former would be carried out in a three day effort towards the beginning of the jan rapat phase, and the report process itself would take a longer period. The jan rapats shall be presented to the gram sabha for finalisation, and then the gram sabha shall accept the jan rapat and endorse it.

The jan rapats will not only document the village resources, they will also provide a framework for future community action to utilise available resources in the best possible manner for overall development of the village. The jan rapat will specifically address issues of gender, equity, livelihoods, poverty, food security etc.

To ensure that that the village jan rapats and the state report that flows from these are used as documents for development, for planning and action, for the community, for panchayats and for the state, a monitoring mechanism may be needed to be put in place. The monitoring mechanism should also be people based.

The data collected during the jan rapat phase will be entered into computers using trained girls under the state

government's Indira Soochana Shakti Yojana, and will be done under the supervision of AISECT, an NGO working with the state government on this project.

The village jan rapats and the database derived out of the *gaon la chalav* abhiyaan would form the basis for district level jan rapats and the state level Chhattisgarh ki jan rapat, the human development report for Chhattisgarh.

At the district level the Zila Panchayat will prepare a jan rapat for the district, based on the jan rapats of the villages. These reports will also provide a framework for framework for future community action at the district level to utilise available resources in the best possible manner for development of the district. The Zila Panchayat will also explore possibilities of additional resource mobilisation based on the people's report.

The state level people report or the *Chhattisgarh ki jan rapat* will be written based on the village jan rapats and the database generated during the *gaon la chalav* campaign.





